

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0037] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0037] The digital ink controlling circuit 232 can also configure how soon the digital ink may start to fade out. For example, the user may set a predetermined time after which the digital ink starts to fade out. The predetermined time may be a constant time after starting the first stroke of the digital ink or a constant time after completing the stroke. In addition, the predetermined time may be a constant time after the first stroke appears on first user device 10 or any other output device (e.g. a computer display) with whom the user is sharing the same media data, or a constant time after the complete stroke of a digital ink appears at first user device 10 or any other output device with whom the user is communicating.

Furthermore, the predetermined time may be a constant time after a group of strokes ends on the first user device 10 or appears on the second user device 20 to whom the user is communicating. Furthermore, it will be apparent that the fading may start immediately after a stroke or cluster of strokes are completed, at the end of the accompanying intonational phrase, if audio is available, or the like. It will also be apparent that the digital ink controlling circuit 232 may be used to change any display characteristics of the digital ink such as color, thickness, fade or duration time or any other known or later developed display characteristics of the digital ink, such as a shape of the digital ink. It will be apparent that the fading operation may start automatically after the predetermined time is elapsed.